

25 MAY 1972

Approved For Release 2001/03/04 : CIA-RDP80-0160

EMPHASIS INCREASES

The Hanoi-Watchers

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SAIGON — The U.S. government has increased its efforts to analyze the effects which intensified American bombing is having on North Vietnam.

Orders have come from Washington to Hanoi-watchers in various government branches here for longer, harder looks at the available evidence on internal developments in the North.

The orders are believed to have followed the May 8 decision by President Nixon to mine North Vietnamese harbors and step up bombing of surface transportation.

The evidence is so thin and slow, however, that information obtained before May 8 had to be used early this week in claims made in Washington about bombing effects after that date.

Orders Follow Allegation

The orders for greater concentration on interpreting material about North Vietnam came after some informed officials here had characterized Hanoi-watching from Saigon as merely perfunctory in some U.S. government branches.

That opinion was based not on the qualifications of the individuals studying North Vietnam — which vary widely — but on the small number of them, working in only loosely coordinated ways.

Neither here nor in Washington are very many Hanoi-watchers in public evidence compared with the specialists concentrated on some other countries of less immediate importance to the United States.

Not All in View

Various documents which have leaked out in Washington in the past year have indicated, however, that the Central Intelligence Agency has a sizable corps of Hanoi-watchers who are not in public evidence.

In places like the State Department, specializing in North Vietnamese affairs has never seemed to have the career attractions of many other countries.

There were two problems. One was trying to specialize in a coun-

try that might never be visited, much less offering an opportunity to rise to ambassador. The other was the danger of being stranded in an arcane field if the war ever ended.

Much of the Hanoi-watching which has gone on here has been directed toward the preparation of propaganda materials — leaflets to be dropped to North Vietnamese soldiers, for instance.

One of the recent orders from Washington for stepped up analytical effort here was for an effort to coordinate studies of bombing effects in North Vietnam so that the conclusions could be used in psychological warfare against it.

Not all available Hanoi-watchers have been eager to participate in this. In some places there is an attitude that more be done, like estimating military intentions.

Prisoner Interrogation

Aside from secret intelligence work, there are several basic sources for analyzing North Vietnam.

One is the interrogation of prisoners. In addition to battlefield information, they can provide information about conditions at home. Usually it is old because the soldiers left home to fight in the South months or even years earlier.

Radio broadcasts by Hanoi and by its front organizations, such as the Viet Cong's liberation radio, also provide information. This often requires "listening between the lines" to detect policy trends.

And the reading of newspapers which filter out of North Vietnam must also be between the lines. Deciphering Communist jargon is a specialty in itself, with Hanoi's variety a subspecialty.

Since the intensified efforts to isolate North Vietnam began May 8, the flow of newspapers has become more irregular.

Radio listeners have in recent days been waiting for some reaction by Hanoi to Nixon's visit to Moscow. Up to this morning, they had heard none.

The Associated Press, which has a Vietnamese-speaking staffer monitoring Hanoi broadcasts in Hong Kong, reported on Tuesday that Hanoi radio had commented.

The news agency quoted a broadcast as calling the visit a "dark and despicable political-diplomatic attempt to undermine the solidarity of those who support the Vietnamese in their struggle against U.S. imperialist aggression," but it would fail.

U.S. government monitors, who have a far more extensive operation, and listen to virtually everything Hanoi says on the air, reported they had not heard anything like this.

They insisted Hanoi had not yet commented on the visit.

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